

December 20, 2005

Dear Ms. Weiss and Ms. Johnson

Yes I am interested in participating in the story telling workshop. I have done story telling in the past and I think this workshop would be a great experience for me. I enjoy writing and like to do plays. I have been doing skits since I was two and have been creating stories even before I could write them down. I recently finished a children's mystery novel and am hoping to edit it and then get it published. I think this workshop would help me create new ideas for stories I could write. I have heard a storyteller at the museum in the capital telling about the holocaust. She told a story about someone finding a relative after the Holocaust that she did not know was still living. It made me feel that even though the Holocaust was a terrible time there were still miracles. My Grandfather is a good storyteller. I like his stories because he tells me what happened in the world during his lifetime.

I would like to share with people of different faiths so I would be able to hear about their customs and share some of the customs my family does. A story I always tell other people is about one of the menorahs that we lit for Chanukah last year. This menorah was supposed to be bears holding the candles. One night the candle actually burned the menorah. The bear looked like he was holding an Olympic torch.

I think it would be interesting to find out the different stories that are told in different households, and maybe find out the ways we are alike and different.

Sincerely,

Ilyssa

12/21/05

Dear Mrs. Johnson,

My name is Sarah. I go to Annur Islamic School, and I am in the seventh grade. I started storytelling since I was about 8 years old. I would tell them to my peers at the time, and they would love them. Then I was in the sixth grade, where I had real training from a professional story-teller. Since then story-telling seemed a lot more fun from when I was eight.

I always had a love for hearing stories with a moral, so I could relate to it. My brother would always tell me stories since I was little. Now I love funny stories with a moral. Another kind of stories I like is African stories. They seem very interesting to me. It reminds me of how all of us started out as. If I were to choose a story from my religion, then it would be about our prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings upon him.)

To me, I am willing to put all the effort that I could possibly put into this program. I am usually never shy in front of audiences. When I am telling stories about my religion, I feel as if I am preaching. When you are preaching you shouldn't be shy. I am looking forward to work with you as well as hearing other religious stories. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sarah

Dear People,
Hello!

As you know, I have enjoyed being involved in storytelling in the past, including telling a few stories to interfaith audiences, and being able to listen to many stories and performances. I think I could use this experience to help others in the project who might not have had these opportunities.

I would be very interested in sharing more stories from the Jewish tradition, and listening to others from other traditions. I also would look forward to sharing and working on storytelling with my peers who may have a similar outlook to mine on things. This would be a different experience for me than I have had in the past.

I enjoy a variety of Jewish stories, including biblical stories and folktales. I especially like stories that have a little bit of magic and mystery in them, which is probably one of the reasons I also like reading fantasy books a lot. I also like stories that are told from an unexpected point of view.

Other activities that I've taken part in such as school plays, singing, dance productions, and chanting torah in synagogue along with bat mitzvah preparations, have helped me learn about performing and the importance of the preparation involved. Each required different kinds of practice and cooperation.

Thank you. Happy New Year!
I hope to participate in this project.

Adah